IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A communications system, ~~in which data is communicated between~~ comprising:

a first information processing apparatus; and

a second information processing apparatus ~~which are~~ interconnected with said first information processing apparatus by a network~~,~~ whereby data is communicated between first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus; ~~characterized by comprising:~~

said first information processing apparatus including:

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock,

generation means that generates, ~~in~~ at a predetermined time~~cycle~~, synchronization control data ~~that instructs a reset of the value of a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock of a second information processing apparatus~~,

transmission means that transmits ~~said~~ the synchronization control data ~~generated by said generation means~~ to said second information processing apparatus, and

transmission resetting means that resets ~~the value of~~ said transmission clock counter ~~after~~ immediately upon the transmission of ~~said~~ the synchronization control data ~~by said transmission means is~~ being completed; and

said second information processing apparatus including:

a ~~said~~ reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock,

data determining means that determines whether or

not data that is received by said second information processing apparatus is ~~said~~ the synchronization control data, and

reception resetting means that resets ~~the value of~~ said reception clock counter ~~if said~~ immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data ~~is~~ being determined ~~as said~~ to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent~~by said data determining means~~.

2. (currently amended) The communications system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~wherein said transmission clock counter and said reception clock counter count values in the same range.

3. (currently amended) The communications system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that:~~wherein said first information processing apparatus further comprises counter determining means that determines whether or not ~~the~~ a value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; ~~wherein~~ and if the value of said transmission clock counter is determined as to become zero by said counter determining means, said transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said second information processing apparatus.

4. (currently amended) A communications method in which data is communicated between a first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus~~,~~ which are interconnected by a network, ~~characterized in that~~said method comprising:

generating, ~~a communications method of said~~ at the first information processing apparatus, ~~generates~~ synchronization control data; ~~that instructs a reset of the value of a reception clock counter that counts an internal reception clock of said second information processing apparatus,~~

transmitting~~s~~ ~~said~~ the generated synchronization control data from the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus;~~,~~ ~~and~~

resetting~~s~~ ~~the value of~~ a transmission clock counter that counts an internal transmission clock ~~after~~ immediately upon the transmission of ~~said~~ the synchronization control data being ~~is~~ completed; ~~and~~

determining, ~~a communications method of said~~ at the second information processing apparatus, ~~determines~~ whether or not data that is received by the second information processing apparatus is ~~said~~ the synchronization control data;~~,~~ and

resetting~~s~~, ~~the value of said~~ at the second information processing apparatus, a reception clock counter ~~if said~~ that counts an internal reception clock immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data ~~is~~ being determined ~~as said~~ to be the synchronization control data,

the resetting of the transmission clock counter of the first information processing apparatus and the resetting of the reception clock counter of the second information processing apparatus thereby being substantially concurrent.

5. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another

information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock;

generation means that generates, ~~in~~ at a predetermined time~~cycle~~, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of ~~the value of~~ a reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus;

control data transmission means that transmits ~~said~~ the synchronization control data ~~generated by said generation means~~ to ~~said~~ the another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets the ~~value of said~~ transmission clock counter ~~after~~ immediately upon the transmission of ~~said~~ the synchronization control data ~~by said transmission means is~~ being completed.

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that:~~ wherein ~~said~~ clock counter counts values of the transmission clock counter are in the same range as ~~said~~ clock counter values of the reception clock counter of said another information processing apparatus.

7. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising: counter determining means that determines whether or not ~~the~~ a value of said transmission clock counter becomes zero; wherein if ~~the~~ a value of said transmission clock counter is determined ~~as~~ to be~~come~~ zero by said counter determining means, said control data transmission means transmits said synchronization control data generated by said generation means to said another information processing apparatus.

8. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

adding means that adds to ~~the~~ a header of said data, based on ~~the~~ a value of said clock counter, a counter value indicating the timing at which said another information processing apparatus processes data; and

data transmission means that transmits to said another information processing apparatus said data to which said counter value added by said adding means.

9. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates the timing at which data is processed, added by said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not ~~the~~ a value of ~~said~~ transmission clock counter reaches said counter value acquired by said acquisition means; and

data processing means that processes said data if ~~said data is determined by~~ said time determining means determines that the value of said transmission clock counter reaches said counter value.

10. (currently amended) An information processing method for transmitting/receiving data ~~with~~ between ~~an~~ first information processing apparatus and a second information processing apparatus connected ~~thereto~~ to each other by a network, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

~~a generation step that~~ generatinge~~s~~, at the first information processing apparatus ~~in~~ at a predetermined time~~cycle~~, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of ~~the value of~~ a reception clock counter of said second information processing apparatus;

~~a control data transmission step that~~ transmitting~~s~~ ~~said~~ the generated synchronization control data ~~generated by the process of said generation step~~ from the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus; and

~~a~~ resetting, ~~step that resets the value of~~ at the first information processing apparatus, a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock ~~after~~ immediately upon the transmission of the ~~said~~ synchronization control data ~~by the process of said control data transmission step is~~ being completed.

11. (currently amended) A processor encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for transmitting/receiving data with an information processing apparatus connected by a network, ~~characterized by~~ the process comprising:

~~a generation step that~~ generating~~es~~, at the first information processing apparatus ~~in~~ at a predetermined time~~cycle~~, synchronization control data that instructs a reset of ~~the value of~~ a reception clock counter of said second information processing apparatus;

~~a control data transmission step that~~ transmitting~~s~~ ~~said~~ the generated synchronization control data ~~generated by the process of said generation step~~ from the first information processing apparatus to ~~said~~ the second information processing apparatus; and

~~a~~ resetting, ~~step that resets the value of~~ at the first information processing apparatus, a transmission clock counter that counts an internal clock ~~after~~ immediately upon the transmission of the ~~said~~ synchronization control data ~~by the process of said control data transmission step is~~ being completed.

12. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for transmitting/receiving data with another information processing apparatus connected thereto by a network, ~~characterized by~~ the apparatus comprising:

a first clock counter that counts an internal clock;

data determining means that determines whether or not data that is received from the another information processing apparatus is synchronization control data~~,~~ which instructs a reset ~~of the value~~ of said first clock counter at the same time as a reset of ~~the value of~~ a second clock counter of said another information processing apparatus; and

reset means that resets ~~the value of~~ said first clock counter ~~if said~~ immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data ~~is~~ being determined ~~as said~~ to be the synchronization control data ~~by said data determining means~~.

13. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that:~~wherein said first clock counter counts values in the same range as said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus.

14. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by further comprising:adding means that adds to the~~ wherein a header of ~~said~~ the received data~~,~~ includes a counter value based on the value of said second clock counter of said other information processing apparatus, ~~a~~ the counter value indicating the timing at which said ~~another~~ information processing apparatus processes the received data~~; anddata transmission means that transmits to said another information processing apparatus said data to which said counter value is added by said adding means~~.

15. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising:

acquisition means that acquires a counter value, which indicates ~~the~~ a timing at which data is processed, ~~added by~~ from said another information processing apparatus;

time determining means that determines whether or not ~~the~~ a value of said first clock counter reaches ~~said~~ the counter value ~~acquired by said acquisition means~~; and

data processing means that processes ~~said~~ the received data ~~if said data is determined by~~ when said time determining means determines that the value of said clock counter reaches said counter value.

16. (currently amended) An information processing method, ~~characterized by~~ the method comprising:

counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

~~a data~~ determining ~~step that determines that determines if~~ whether data ~~that is~~ received from an information processing apparatus is synchronization control data~~,~~ which instructs, at the same time as a reset of ~~the value of~~ a second clock counter of ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus, a reset of the ~~value of a~~ first clock counter ~~that counts an internal clock~~; and

~~a~~ resetting ~~step that resets~~ the ~~value of said~~ first clock counter ~~if said~~ immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data ~~is~~ being determined ~~as said~~ to be synchronization control data ~~by the process of said data determining step~~.

17. (currently amended) A processor encoded with a computer program for causing a computer to execute a process for transmitting/receiving with an information apparatus connected thereto by a network, ~~characterized by~~ the process comprising:

counting an internal clock using a first clock counter;

~~a data~~ determining ~~step that determines that determines if~~ whether data ~~that is~~ received from an information processing apparatus is synchronization control data~~,~~ which instructs, at the same time as a reset of ~~the value of~~ a second clock counter of ~~said~~ the information processing apparatus, a reset of the ~~value of a~~ first clock counter ~~that counts an internal clock~~; and

~~a~~ resetting ~~step that resets~~ the ~~value of said~~ first clock counter ~~if said~~ immediately upon the receiving of the data being completed and the received data ~~is~~ being determined ~~as said~~ to be synchronization control data ~~by the process of said data determining step~~.